

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 NSC-05 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00

PRS-01 PA-02 H-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 L-03 USIE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P;GSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
NEA/ARN - MR. DAY
S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 177922 TOSEC 080108

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS RESPONSES ON HAWKS FOR JORDAN

PLEASE DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS
FOLLOWING RESPONSES WERE USED TODAY JULY 28. BEGIN TEXT:
Q: IS THE EFFECT OF THE ACTION ANNOUNCED BY SENATOR CASE
TODAY TO WITHDRAW THE LETTER OF OFFER ON THE HAWK MISSILE?

A. LET ME EXPLAIN PRECISELY WHAT HAS BEEN DONE. THE
ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE TODAY SENT A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN
SPARKMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND
CHAIRMAN MORGAN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COM-
MITTEE SETTING OUT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO DO.
THE 20-DAY WAITING PERIOD UNDER THE NELSON AMENDMENT EX-
PIRES JULY 30, AND IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS IT HAD
BECOME EVIDENT THAT MORE TIME WAS NEEDED TO CONSIDER THE
HAWK SALE. WE, THEREFORE, WORKED OUT WITH THE COMMITTEES
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AN ARRANGEMENT FOR RESUBMITTING THE NOTIFICATION ON THIS

SALE WITHIN A TIME FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESS AFTER IT RETURNS FROM ITS RECESS. ACCORDINGLY, THE LETTER STATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD RESUBMIT THE NOTIFICATION OF THE LETTER OF OFFER ON THE HAWK MISSILE TO CONGRESS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE LETTER NOW BEFORE THE TWO HOUSES. THIS PERMITS 20 MORE DAYS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, AS REQUIRED BY LAW. BUT SINCE CONGRESS WILL BE IN RECESS DURING AUGUST, WE ALSO SAID THAT WE WOULD AGAIN RESUBMIT WHEN THIS NEXT 20-DAY PERIOD EXPIRED, AND IF NECESSARY, WE WOULD SUBMIT IT AGAIN FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE SUBSEQUENT 20 DAYS. THIS WILL PROVIDE A FULL 20-DAY PERIOD, IF NECESSARY, WITHIN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER FOR CONGRESS TO CONSIDER THIS LETTER OF OFFER, AND PERMITS FURTHER TIME FOR US TO WORK WITH CONGRESS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. WE ARE HAPPY SUCH A MEANS HAS BEEN FOUND TO PERMIT CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE WITH THE CONGRESS.

Q: ARE YOU SCALING DOWN THE PROPOSAL?

A: WE ARE SIMPLY RESUBMITTING THE SAME NOTIFICATION ON THE HAWK SALE THAT HAS BEEN BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE. WE ARE JUST ARRANGING FOR MORE TIME TO WORK OUT, IF POSSIBLE, AN AGREED MEANS FOR DEALING WITH THE MATTER. WE HOPE THIS WILL IN FACT PROVE POSSIBLE.

Q: HAS KING HUSSEIN AGREED TO THIS ARRANGEMENT?

A: WE HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM. HE, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY, BUT WE HAVE EXPLAINED AND HE UNDERSTANDS OUR REASONS FOR MAKING THE ARRANGEMENT.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS ON THE VULCAN LETTER OF OFFER?

A: THE FACTUAL SITUATION IS THAT, ASSUMING CONGRESS DOES NOT REGISTER OBJECTION TO THE LETTER OF OFFER ON THE VULCANS BY WEDNESDAY--JULY 30--THEN WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JORDANIANS ON HOW TO PROCEED.

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Q. THEN THE ADMINISTRATION IS STILL PREPARED TO GO AHEAD ON THE VULCANS?

A: YES, WE ARE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD, BUT WE HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH KING HUSSEIN.

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